

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New claims 10 and 11 have been added. New claim 11 corresponds to canceled original claim 3.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to further clarify the claimed invention.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Whitefield (U.S. Patent No. 5,282,446). Applicant traverses these rejections because Whitefield fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. Specifically, Whitefield fails to disclose or suggest at least the following limitations:

Claim 1:

a single motion transmission shaft extending along a main axis X-X;
at least one oil pump mounted on said motion transmission shaft
coaxially to said main axis X-X;
at least one vacuum pump mounted on said motion transmission shaft
coaxially to said main axis X-X;
a gear mounted on said motion transmission shaft coaxially to said main axis X-X and adapted to derive a rotary motion from a driving gear of an engine and to transfer said rotary motion to said motion transmission shaft to drive said at least one oil pump and said at least one vacuum pump;

Claim 8:

e) ***mounting said gear said at least one oil pump and said at least one vacuum pump on said motion transmission shaft*** coaxially to said main axis X-X, so as to define a group which is structurally independent from and adapted to be associated with said engine.

The apparatus in Whitefield has two different shafts extending along the main axis of the group - drive shaft 15 for the oil pump 10 and shaft 31 for the water pump. Thus, the Whitefield apparatus requires splines, keys, dogs or similar element for connecting the two shafts 15 and 31. On the other hand, claims 1 and 8 require that the oil pump and vacuum pump are on the same driving shaft, thus, eliminating the need for the extra components in Whitefield.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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